

# Briefly Told

The census of the seal herd on Pribilof Island this year shows as a total, 1,500,000 seals, the largest number known since the government took charge of the seal industry.

Due to improper ventilation in the mines at least 1,000 metal miners die annually in the United States, causing a loss of time aggregating millions of dollars and untold suffering to the miners and their families.

Strong tobacco smoke blown into glass cases containing small pieces of thin paper soaked in germ-cultures such as the bacilli of cholera, influenza, diphtheria, typhoid fever and meningitis proved that tobacco smoke can affect only the weakest germs and then only after long exposure, the experiment showing no effect on the typhoid and diphtheria germs.

A Franklin penny, the first copper coin to be authorized by Congress, has been found on the homestead of one of the settlers in Dover, Massachusetts.

The first flight made over the equatorial Andes was made recently by an Italian aviator flying from Guayaquil to Cuenca, a distance of 120 miles.

A Kentucky man "got mad" at a judge when sentenced to jail, and became a candidate for the judgeship. He defeated the judge, although still in jail, and the county is wondering what he will do if the judge ever is unfortunate enough to be brought before him.

There are fifty-four kinds of paper money in the United States.

An Ottawa, Illinois, banker was locked in his vault by a bandit. Failing to open the time lock, bank officials asked Joliet penitentiary to lend them an expert safe-cracker, but the warden was unable to find a graduate blower who felt capable of handling a modern safe.

On armistice day this year the United States Army, which two years before had numbered more than 4,000,000 men, was still 70,000 short of its present authorized strength of 280,000 officers and men.

A Kansas City policeman resigned because he was assigned to a muddy beat.

Oregon high schools paid \$1,500 for sheep-skin covers of diplomas of graduates.

The death rate in the United States in 1919 was the lowest yearly average ever recorded. The rate was 12.9 per 1,000 persons, and nearly 10 per cent of the deaths was from tuberculosis.

A boy in Newcastle, Indiana, found \$1,300 worth of gold in a pot while digging a basement under a house. A daughter of the former owner of the house, and the farmer who now owns the place, both laid claim to the gold, but the judge ruled that "finders are keepers."

China has but 6,000 miles of railroads while her natural resources warrant the construction of more than 300,000 miles.

To eliminate gambling and opium smoking among Chinese in this country, the Chinese National Welfare Society in America is establishing industrial schools and persuading the Chinese to attend American schools where they may occupy their time and their thought with trades and industries.

Hungary signed the Treaty of Peace with the Allies with the draping of black flags and general mourning throughout the land.

During October there were residing in Paris more than 22,000 Americans, exclusive of tourists.

E. W. Stanford, of Farmersville, Texas, dug a sweet potato weighing more than 10 pounds.

Experiments made by a London scientist prove that bats are directed in their flight by a special sense of hearing and by sound waves.

A pound of sugar or butter in Russia costs a month's pay of an ordinary workman.

French cooking is not what it used to be, complain many visitors to France. It is becoming more and more difficult to find apprentices for the pastry trade.

The automobilist in London has only to sign a statement giving name, age, type of car, and so on, and pay \$1 to obtain a license to drive.

Engineers seeking a good road up Mount Rainier found one already to their hand by using Nisqually glacier. A tractor solved the problem of taking tourists up the ice-river road.

All Warsaw went into mourning at the funeral of Sergeant Sophie Poukopicz, "the Heroine of Plock," who died from wounds received in battle against the Bolsheviks.

In China 20,000,000 persons are being fed on a famine ration by relief societies.

There were fewer tourists in Cuba last winter than during any period in the recent history of that island, according to the Cuban commissioner of immigration.

The urban population of the United States is about 4,000,000 more than the rural, while in 1910 the rural was about 7,000,000 more than the urban.

Tarrant County, Texas, has erected a large apartment house at a cost of \$16,000. Apartments in this building will be rented to teachers at a nominal rental of \$5 a month to supplement their meager pay.

Mexico is beginning to divide fractionally the many large ranches of Sonora and is planning to sell the subdivisions to small farmers.

To stimulate building in New Jersey, it has been decreed that dwelling houses erected between now and October 1, 1922, will be exempt from taxation for the next five years.

It is estimated by the National Tuberculosis Association that \$2,000,000 is annually thrown away by residents of New York City in the vain hope of curing tuberculosis and that fake "cures" defraud the public of this country of from \$15,000,000 to \$25,000,000 yearly.

The encroachments of salt water have reduced the Tampico oil field's production about 50 per cent in the estimation of prominent oil men in Mexico.

Armed bands of outlaws are attacking towns in the vicinity of the Hartz mountains in Germany, terrorizing the inhabitants, cutting the telephone wires and committing crimes.

A race of 40,000 head-hunting cannibals declared to be the smallest human beings, as a race, was recently discovered by an explorer in the New Hebrides.

Oil derived from the liver of sharks caught off the coast of California is used as a leather preservative.

The former German emperor's annual tax assessment will enrich the village of Doorn \$13,265.

Maine has 5,151 rivers and streams and 1,620 lakes, according to a recent survey.

Yellowstone Park entertained 79,777 tourists during the 1920 season.

The United States supplies 69 per cent of the world's output of petroleum.

Important archeological finds have been made in Oregon recently. A prehistoric cemetery containing stone utensils and copper ornaments was unearthed at one point on the Columbia River and at another locality were found picture writings chiseled on the cliffs.

A plant for the manufacture of jelly from seaweeds has been newly established in California.

Because of fuel oil shortage, naval vessels equipped with oil-burning engines were recently ordered to reduce their speed.

When the 1920 census was taken a few months ago in Breckenridge, Texas, the count showed a scant 2,000 persons. Now there are 25,000 in the town. Oil, of course.

Plans for a paper conservation campaign to avoid waste and conserve scraps of paper were made at the opening session of the American Paper and Pulp Association's convention recently held in Chicago.

Consumers of soft drinks have paid \$51,000,000 to the Revenue Department of the government. This would indicate that the soft drink business is in excess of \$500,000,000 a year.

New England, self-supporting in lumber twenty years ago, now has to import one-third of the amount used. It has \$300,000,000 invested in wood and forest industries employing over 90,000 wage earners.

Only 5.3 per cent of the farms in the United States are electrically equipped.

Saloons in all the larger towns of Mexico are to be closed from noon Saturday until 9 o'clock Sunday morning.

The United States is short more than 1,000,000 homes.

Chicago's city council advises the housewives of that city to bake their own bread and smash the high bread prices.

Statistics show that as cold weather approaches and work grows scarcer, the army recruiting stations do more business.

At the coming session of Congress a bill will be introduced to wipe out trading in grain futures where no grain changes hands. As the bill will affect only gamblers and will not interfere with the business of legitimate grain dealers, the farmers are in favor of its passage.

Military training has been compulsory in New Zealand since 1910.

Japanese who are leaving California because of the new anti-alien law in that state are going into Texas where during the last two months they have acquired by lease or purchase one-fourth of the irrigated land in the Rio Grande Valley.

Governor John M. Parker, of Louisiana, has issued a call for a meeting with the object in view of devising ways and means to prevent the Mississippi River from cutting a new mouth, through the delta, to the Gulf of Mexico, by following one of its old mouths, the Atchafalaya River, down to a point about 100 miles west of New Orleans.

The jinrikisha men of Japan have hitched their two-wheeled carriages to motor cycles, to the great increase of modernity, although at the loss of a certain picturesqueness.

To carry on its campaign for the election of officials favorable to labor cost the A. F. L. only \$50,000, according to reports. The claim is made that "60 enemies of labor" have been defeated.

A certain territory on the coast of Peru has been set aside by the government and given over to American concerns for development in the belief that American machinery and methods will set an example in the raising of cotton, sugar and cocoa.

New York police have been assigned to stop motor vehicles on the streets and examine them, sending those in need of repairs to a garage and giving certificates of good condition to the others.

A handcuffed bicycle rider recently made a 10,000-mile trip through the eastern states in less than seven months.

The cost of the British Army of Occupation on the Rhine was 3,600,000 pounds sterling a year.

Approximately 190,000 immigrants will enter Canada this year.

The French franc, which has sagged in value from about 20 cents to about five cents is now known throughout the country by the good American name of "nickel."